From:

General K.M. Cariappa (Retd).
President,
Indian Ex-Services League,
The National Stadium,
NEW DELHI

Carta Jaipur

21 March, 1972

I have written this in confirmation of all that I told you yesterday about the help that can be given to the cause of ex-service personnel in Rajasthan.

I came here on the 19th of March, on the invitation of Her Highness the Rajmata of Jaipur to discuss with her a proposal she has for setting up of a park around her hill Palace - Takht-i-Shahi - and using part of the land there to provide for the following for ex-servicemen and their families.

1) Small houses.

2) Training in:

a) Handicraft work.
b) Typing and short-hand.
c) Printing

to enable them earn their living by their own work.

3) A school for children.

This proposal of hers is her desire to implement the wishes of her husband, His late Highness Maharaja Sir Sawai Man Singhji Bahadur, whose love and affection for all ranks in the defence services were unbounded.

JAI JAWAN COLONY

Yesterday, I went round the area concerned and felt her wish can be put into practice by providing for the following:-

1) Initially putting up 25 small houses, keeping aside some surplus land to build another 25 eventually.

2) Set aside a small area where 'Booths' to sell things like cigarettes, matches, sweets and such other things which people normally buy in small shops. In the first stage, say, about 20 such 'booths' will be provided in the area which we will call 'Jai Jawan Market'. This area would be fenced all round, with good lighting.

3) Build a big workshop where men and women, in separate sections, would be taught their respective handicraft work to start with and when trained, they can make their own items of goods. For example, the men would be taught to make Chappals, small knives and things like that. And the women would be taught to knit, sew and do embroidery work and so on. There will also be a small section where boys and girls could be taught typing and shorthand. Printing also will be taught.

4) A small school for the children of ex-servicemen.

All these items are only 'suggestions'. The details will have to be worked out by a special committee of Officers of the Indian Ex-Services League in Delhi in consultation with Her Highness the Rajmata, local ex-Officers, JCOs and Jawans. It was in this context that I saw you yesterday to request you to be good enough to consider setting aside Rs.10 Lakhs for this Ex-Servicemen's colony in Jaipur. I feel, a major portion of this money will be needed to esteblish what I have mentioned above, leaving a small reserve for other purposes later.

I will be most grateful if this is considered by Your Excellency and the Government of Rajasthan.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May I suggest that a small 'Advisory Committee' of some specially selected Ex-Army and Air Force Officers, JCOs and Jawans, say, 3 Officers, 2 JCOs and 2 Jawans could be set up to advise the Government, when you need any ideas and suggestions in this respect. This would not be an Executive body. It should be of great help to your Government to deal with this very important matter of rehabilitation and resettlement of our ex-servicemen and their families.

Such a committee would certainly boost the morale of both ex-servicemen and those in service now because they will also be 'ex-servicemen' one day.

SECRETARIES OF STATE & DISTRICT SOLDIERS', SAILORS' & AIRMEN'S BOARDS

This Committee can also give your Government a panel of names of suitable ex-Servicemen - Officers, JCOs and Jawans for the Government to choose from for appointment as Secretaries of the State and District Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Boards. I believe, at the moment not all Secretaries of District Soldiers', Sailors and Airmen's Boards are ex-service people. I understand, also, the Secretary of the State Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board is no longer an ex-serviceman. I appeal to Your Excellency to see that these Secretaries are ex-servicemen because they understand the problems of ex-servicemen more intimately and will help your Government to speedily implement their plans. I believe, the policy of your Government is to have a Civilian Officer from the Revenue Ministry as Secretary of the State Soldiers', Sailors', and Airmen's Board and that no ex-serviceman is to be appointed to this office.

May I please be permitted to suggest that a selected ex-service-officer be also appointed as another Secretary to work with the officer from the Revenue Ministry. This joint work would be very helpful all round.

STATE FUNCTIONS

I request Your Excellency to invite senior retired ex-officers, JCOs and Jawans to State functions and National days. Naturally, you cannot invite all of them as they would run into thousands, but your Secretary can keep a list of senior officers, JCOs and other ranks who can be invited.

WAR MEMORIAL

I forgot to mention to you about the War Memorial put up here. At the moment it is in the form of an iron gate with pillars on either side on which are written names of units of Rajasthan Army. I do think, this State having provided some magnificent officers, JCOs and Jawans for our Defence Services should have a more impressive War Memorial.

May I suggest, you enlarge the present one by putting up a high plinth on which you have a model of a Jawan on one side and of an Airman on the other. This should be enclosed by good iron railing, with a platform at the foot of the plinth to lay flowers on on special occasions. This should be flood-lit at night.

His Excellency Sardar Hukam Singh,
Governor of Rajasthan,
Raj Bhawan,
JAIPUR
******

Copy to:
The Hon'ble Shri Barkatullah Khan,
Chief Minister,
Rajasthan,
JAIPUR
******

Her Highness Rajmata of Jaipur